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EXHIBIT 3
DATE 3-9-07
HB 148

March 8, 2007

The Honorable John Sinrud,
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee
Montana State House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

RE: HB 148 – Pool/Spa License Fee Increase

Dear Chairman Sinrud and Members of the House Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the Yellowstone City-County Board of Health, I urge your support of HB 148 which would increase licensing fees for public swimming pools and spas.

The Yellowstone City-County Health Department has been inspecting public pools and spas within the county for over 20 years and currently inspects 71 pools and 45 spas. Pool inspections take approximately 1 hour to complete, including chemical testing, checking safety equipment and the filtering system, as well as inspecting the log. Current fees do not begin to adequately cover the cost of the inspections and increasing the fee will help assist in supporting the costs. Our present reimbursement for pool and spa inspections amounts to approximately \$4500. Under HB 148, the proposed reimbursement would be approximately \$15,000.

Pool and spa inspections are an important public health safety measure as the inspections can identify possible hazards and reduce the likelihood of accidental death or injury at public pool facilities. The inspection of water quality is an important component in preventing the spread of communicable disease in our community.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of HB 148. I look forward to working with you on this and other important public health measures. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at barbaras@ycchd.org or 651-6420.

Sincerely,

Barbara Schneeman, Manager
Communications and Advocacy

CC: Representatives Wanda Grinde, Penny Morgan, Bill Glaser